

THE

REHEARSAL.

1. They told us from Holland 3 Years ago, That the Sacramental Test wou'd be taken away.
2. The Church will not be Awaken'd by it.
3. And the Dissenters will not rest Satisfy'd with it.
4. They already (upon the Supposition) Claim the Whole Administration. And propose a Test to Exclude every Church-Man.
5. This Test must throw down our Liturgy, Articles, Homilies, and the Act of Uniformity.
6. They are beginning their Old Trade again, to Talk Men out of their Places. They want the Fleet.
7. Their desire to Repeal the Sacramental Test, shews they were not Pleas'd which their Occasional Conformity.
8. Puff will be Puff still.

SATURDAY, January 22. 1708.

(1.) Country-man. **Y**OU have said nothing yet, Master, of this Grand Project now a foot, which is the Talk of the Town, to Repeal the Sacramental Test. The Observator pushes it on. And several Pamphlets have been wrote for it, as Inconsistent with the Union, &c.

Rehearsal. I told you Vol. 1. N. 81. Jan. 12. 1705. That this Project was then a Brewing, long before the Union, I had my Information from Holland (the best English news comes from thence) and gave you the very words of the *Harlem Courant* of Aug. 27. 1705. which tells, That it was the Resolution of the *Juncto in London* to take away the Sacramental Test, &c.

Country-m. But you shou'd say something now. Are you unconcern'd in this Matter?

Rehearsal. Yes. Country-man. Because I know not which is Best, whether that Test shou'd be taken away, or not?

(2.) Country-m' That's strange! Have you forgot the Park-keeper and the Dear Stealer? Do you think it for the Park-keeper's Security to have the Pales of his Park pull'd down?

Rehearsal. Yes. If the Noise of it wou'd Awaken him out of his Lethargy. He might Defend his Park better without Pales when he is Awake, than with them when he is Asleep.

Country-m. I'm afraid you're Crusty, Master. And do you think, That the Pulling down of the Pales wou'd not Awaken the Park-keeper? Or that he may not be Awaken without it?

Rehearsal. I think neither With it, nor Without it?

Country-m. Then you give over the Cause.

Rehearsal. It is Long since I did that.

Country-m. What did you Struggle for then? What have you been talking of the Church for all this time?

Rehearsal. I have done my Duty. And if that will not do, who can help it? There is a Fate in it!

Country-m. But you must never give over a Good Thing. You know not when the Lucky-Hour may Come:

Rehearsal. When the Sky falls, we shall Catch Larks—— It was a sad Fate upon Cassandra; but worse upon the Trojans, that she was not to be Believ'd till the Ruin came.

Suppose the Sacramental Test were taken off. What then? Country-Man.

(3.) Country-m. Why then the Dissenters wou'd Certainly be Pleas'd. For then they wou'd be Capable of all Places of Power and Trust, Equal to Church-Men. And sure they wou'd never Desire more.

Rehearsal, I thought so! Thou talk'st like an Errant Church-Man! I told You that all this wou'd not Awaken them! And you have found an Argument already for Folding of the Hands to Slumber! For Issachar saw that Rest was Good! I told you from the beginning, That the Dissenters wou'd never be Pleas'd with New Acquisitions, but in Order to get more. And I blame them not.

not. For all Mankind wou'd do the same. Wou'd not every Party in the World desire to be Uppermost? Wou'd any Refuse the Means, when it was put in their Power? When they were Encourag'd and Courted too! I writ not against Them now, I write against the Church.

Country-m. This is a Hyp-Day with you. But did any of the Dissenters ever say, That they wou'd not be Content to be upon the Level with the Church?

(4.) Rehears. Say so? Wou'd you have them Fools, to Proclaim their Designs, and set the Church upon her Guard? Yet such Fools they are, and yet she will not Believe them! But not Fools neither, for they know she cannot be Amaken'd. They have Enchanted her! She loves to be Bully'd, and see what will Come of it!

The Observator of the 8th Instant, Num. 94. has already Proclaim'd it, as the Herald of the Party, That they will not be Content with an Equal Share in the Administration, but that they must have All. And not one Church-man in the Nation shall be Employ'd. But turn'd out of all Posts in Church and State. These are his Words. And he Proposes a New Test to discover any who have one Drachme of Church-Blood in them. And that this be sent to Purge the Universities and the Clergy.

Country-m. What Test is that he wou'd be at?

Rehears. He calls it, a Test to Oblige Men of Arbitrary Principles, either to Renounce them, or Quit their Posts in Church and State.

Country-m. So then, This will be a Thorough Reformation! Not only to Preclude these Arbitrary Men from Coming into Places hereafter, but to Turn out from what Posts they are in, in the Church as well as in the State.

(5.) Rehears. And how Easy is it to Call any body a Man of Arbitrary Principles! The Meaning is the Doctrine of Passive Obedience. And then out Go every one of the Clergy of England, for they have all subscrib'd the Homilies, as Enjoin'd by Act of Parliament. And the Six last Homilies against Rebellion set up Passive Obedience to the very Height, and Answer all the Pretences that ever any Whigg offer'd for Resistance, and Condemn them All to the very Pit of Hell. Especially the First and Second, which are Particularly Order'd to be Read every 30th of January, or a Sermon Compos'd upon the same Argument, as the Rubrick Directs, as it stands Confirm'd even since the Revolution. So that the Book of Common Prayer must Go too. And over 39 Articles, where these Homilies are all Inserted. And the Act of Uniformity which Enjoins the Subscription of these Articles. All these must be Un-sworn by the Test the Observator Pro-

poses. And the taking away the Sacramental Test is only in Ordine ad— To make the Rest go down the more Glib.

Country-m. You will never get any one to Believe that any such thing will be Propos'd.

(6.) Rehears. I believe so too. That's what I say. But have I ever Guess'd wrong yet, as to the Encroachments of the Dissenters upon the Church? Have they not Inch'd it and Inch'd it on faster than I told you? You wou'd not believe that Such and Such Men wou'd be Talk'd out of their Places! Men who had Merited as much from England by their Services at Sea and Land as any who ever fill'd those Posts. But they were Church Men! Le Hogue, Vigo, Gibraltar, and Beating the French Fleet were nothing when done by a Church Man! And Port Mahone is with them such another Crows-Neck as Gibraltar, because not done by a Whigg! They Buzz about the Town that Leak must follow Rook. And that there are others as fitting as the Lord High Admiral himself. They spar'd not his late Royal Highness, but Attack'd him by Name all the while he was in that Great Post, and were not out of Hopes to have Talk'd Him out too! How many Battles have I had with the late Observator upon this Head, for his laying all Miscarriages upon the Prince, and his Invidious Comparisons of him with the Count de Tolouse Admiral of France? — In short they want the Fleet into their Hands! They think not themselves Right in their Geers till then, And then you will remember Cassandra!

(7.) Country-m. They long Eluded the Sacramental Test by their Occasional Conformity. And having fulfill'd that Law (as they said) Yet now they wou'd have it taken away. Why? Did not Occasional Conformity sit Easy upon their Stomachs? But it is Inching!

(8.) Rehears. Where are those now, who told us how many Occasional Conformity had brought over to the Church? You see they are Weary of it! You may Judge then how Sincerely they came into it! Puff's will be Puff's still!

A D V E R T I S E M E N T S.
IN the Rehearsal of the 8th Dec. last, Num. 18. Mr. Patrick Middleton is Nam'd (with two others) But I am since Inform'd I have done him wrong, in Naming him with them. Therefore I ask his Pardon, and make him this Reparation.

AN Account of the late Establishment of Presbyterian Government by the Parliament of Scotland Anno 1690. Together with the Methods by which it was settled, and the Consequences of it: As also several publick Acts, Speeches, Pleadings, and other Matters of Importance, relating to the Church in that Kingdom. To which is added a Summary of the Visitation of the Universities there; in a Letter from a Gentleman at Edinburgh to his Friend at London.